

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/655,360

Examiner

Crystal J. Barnes

Applicant(s)

SAKITA ET AL

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment received on 8 January 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-21.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7 November 2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Notice of Allowability in response to the Amendment received on 8 January 2007. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 1-7 and 9-21 remain pending in this application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

As per claim 1 line 2, "programs" has been deleted and --basic operating programs-- has been inserted.

As per claim 1 line 9, "specifications" has been deleted and --specifications of said washing time, said number of rinse cycles and said spin-dry time preprogrammed for said basic operating program-- has been inserted.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 1-7 and 9-21 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 1 and 11, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fails to teach special operating program setting means for establishing a special operating program wherein the special operating program is established by selecting one of the plurality of basic operating programs and independently setting at least two of the specifications of said washing time, said number of rinse cycles and said spin-dry time preprogrammed for said basic operating program.

As per claims 20 and 21, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fails to teach special operating program setting means for establishing a special operating program wherein the special operating program is established by selecting one of the plurality of basic operating programs and independently setting at least two of the specifications of the washing time, the rinsing time and the drying time preprogrammed for said basic operating program.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled

"Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The examiner has considered the information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7 November 2006.

Drawings

6. The drawings were received on 8 January 2007. These drawings are unacceptable. Lead lines to reference numbers that have been deleted should also be deleted.

7. The above changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above drawing changes.

Specification

8. The amendment to the specification was received on 8 January 2007. This correction is acceptable.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to programmable appliance control systems:

USPN 4,318,084 to Scott et al.


USPN 4,195,498 to Pellerin

US Pub. No. 2002/0128729 A1 to Blair et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Crystal J. Barnes whose telephone number is 571.272.3679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday alternate Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571.272.3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


CRYSTAL J. BARNES
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
CJB
5 February 2007